



Department of Justice

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HOGSETT ANNOUNCES CHARGES AGAINST LOCAL MAN FOR DISTRIBUTING, POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

U.S. Attorney says formal charges have been filed in case involving Crawfordsville defendant

PRESS RELEASE

CRAWFORDSVILLE – U.S. Attorney Joseph H. Hogsett announced this afternoon charges against Montgomery County resident James McKee, age 51, on charges that he both possessed and distributed child pornography. Hogsett said the filing of formal charges comes as his office has launched Operation Community Watch, a new effort which aims to reduce the abuse of Hoosier children through innovative investigative techniques and aggressive prosecution.

“Nothing is more important than the safety of Hoosier children, and cases such as this are a tragic reminder of the dangers that can lurk in our communities,” Hogsett said. “That is why we have launched Operation Community Watch with our law enforcement partners, and we will continue our efforts to identify and prosecute anyone found to be engaging in such deplorable behavior.”

Court documents allege that on March 13, 2012, investigators received information from Serbian law enforcement representatives regarding child pornography trafficking on a number of American-owned websites. Further investigation revealed an email address that was being monitored by the registered owner of those websites. An undercover operation provided law enforcement access to that email account, and investigators were able to identify individuals who had been allegedly in communication with the website operators.

According to the allegations in the Criminal Complaint against McKee, an email with the address jmckee50v@comcast.com was identified by law enforcement as having been in communication with the website operators. That email account was allegedly traced to the home of McKee in Crawfordsville. On November 19, 2012, a federal search warrant was obtained and

executed at McKee's home, at which point law enforcement allegedly identified many videos and images depicting child pornography, with victim children as young as age six.

According to Senior Litigation Counsel Steve DeBrotta, who is prosecuting the case for the government, McKee faces decades in prison if he is found guilty of all charges. He also could face significant fines, years of supervised release, and lifetime registration as a sexual predator.

This indictment comes as Hogsett has announced a comprehensive crackdown on child exploitation in Indiana. Just last week, he launched "Operation Community Watch," which will allow prosecutors and investigators to use cutting-edge techniques to identify and charge people in Hoosier communities who are engaged in the receipt and trafficking of child pornography materials.

Specifically, Hogsett discussed a project in conjunction with Purdue University in which investigators have developed new and more effective on-site forensic examination software that allows law enforcement to quickly scan thousands of images and videos when a warrant is served. In this case, these efforts were facilitated by Homeland Security Investigations, along with the Indiana State Police.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a larger nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Hogsett pointed out that in the last Project Safe Childhood reporting year, the Office prosecuted 52 defendants, an increase of 37% over the prior year, and 49 defendants were convicted and sentenced. These are all-time records for the Office. The Office conviction rate for PSC cases was 100%, a level it has been at since 1991.

The greatest measure of the PSC program's impact, however, is the identification and rescue of child victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. Over the last year, the U.S. Attorney's Office successfully identified more than 120 child victims, including minors in Indiana, numerous places in the United States, Canada, Switzerland, and other countries around the world.

Led nationally by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

An Information is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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